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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

State Papers; published under the Authority of His Majesty's Commission. Vols. II. & III. 4to. pp. 1168.

THE first of these important quartos contains the correspondence between the governments of England and Ireland between 1515 and 1538; and the other between the latter year and 1546,—all during the reign of Henry the Eighth.

The collection is of vast historical importance to Britain; and its publication reflects the highest honour on Mr. Henry Hobhouse (keeper of the office, and one of the Commissioners), who has edited it, and supplied the notes in a very able manner. In expressing our admiration at the accuracy with which the work is printed, we think we should do injustice to a most meritorious individual, were we to pass over without warm eulogy the name of Mr. Robert Lemon,—who, with a son following doughtily in the antiquarian footsteps of his father, has done so much in discovering these and other valuable documents among the countless mass of papers committed to his charge.

For the present we must be content with little more than concisely stating the result of our examination of this great national work. We open it at three lithographed maps of Ireland; of which the preface says,

"For the purpose of assisting those, who are curious in Irish topographical history, in locating the Septs, particularly the smaller ones, whose positions are greatly obscured, and in some instances obliterated by age, fac-similes are given of three curious maps, which, though not quite coeval with the reign of Henry VIII., are of a date very little subsequent. The originals are very rudely executed, but give a locality to so many of the Septs, as to counteract, in some degree, the difficulty arising out of the change of name, which many places in Ireland have undergone. One of these maps comprises only the province of Munster, and appears, by the frequent occurrence of Lord Burleigh's handwriting upon it, to have been much in his use. The two others extend to the whole of Ireland. The earliest of these, by John Goghe, bears the date 1567; the other was compiled by John Norden, and from his dedication to the Earl of Salisbury, as lord high treasurer, may be ascertained to have been completed between the years 1609 and 1611, the period during which his lordship held that office. In giving the modern names, the orthography has been taken from the map of Ireland, published by the Rev. D. A. Beaufort, in 1792. On one point the map of 1567 throws an historical, as well as a geographical light; namely, in the delineation of the three galloglasses in the north of Ulster, which will be found to correspond precisely with the description given of

them by Sir Antony Sentleger, in p. 444 of the third volume."

We presume these to be from the earliest manuscript maps of Ireland which are in existence, and long anterior to the Down Survey, which is the earliest authority referred to in Dr. Beaufort's memoir.

The next feature that strikes us, though at exactly the other end of the work, viz. the end of Vol. III., is a vocabulary "in which have been incorporated such Irish terms and phrases as occur, and likewise a few Latin words (neither of classical authority, nor familiar to the ordinary reader of low Latin), which are found in the correspondence with the Irish chieftains; most of whom (as is apparent from many passages) neither understood, nor sought to understand, the English language, and carried on their correspondence in Latin, supplied by their priests."

This performance is quite new to us; and the pains it must have taken to frame it, can only be appreciated by those who know what the formation of a glossary is. In a philological point of view, it is of great interest; and we shall probably, hereafter, pay our respects to it in that light. In the meantime we must advert to the body of the text; and an immense body it is.

The whole of the original State Papers, of which copies have been printed by Irish historians during the reign of Henry VIII., at least as far as we can ascertain by reference to the leading histories, do not exceed a dozen. These volumes contain, within half-a-dozen of four hundred and fifty, selected from the State Papers, the British Museum, the Chapter House, and Lambeth Library! And here again we have to mention, with hearty approbation, the research that has been bestowed in fixing the dates of these papers; for our readers must understand that most of the letters are without dates, and were only to be established by circumstances carefully compared, handwriting, connexion with other documents, and their bearing precisely on ascertained historical and biographical events. This is a singular service to the whole; and adds much even to the value of the originals, from whose transcription these volumes are compiled.

The commencement is an extremely curious paper on the grievances of Ireland generally, and a plan for their redress and reformation. This interesting account of the country, at so very early a period as 1515, gives us, among other things, its topographical sub-divisions under the native chieftains, and well merits perusal even 320 years after it was written. It is worthy of remark, perhaps, in our day, that we do not find the name of O'Connell* among the chiefs: but the "Greate Oneylle," "O'Donel," "O'Conor," "M'Carthy More," "O'Brien," "M'" and "O'Morogh," "M'Eneas" (now Magennis, and no doubt Maginn!), "M'Teague," "M'Mahon," &c. &c.

&c.; while Fitzgeralds, Bourkes, Powers, Barrys, Dyllons, &c. &c. figure among the great English captains, though perfectly addicted to Irish rule on their own account by the rights of the strongest. In this statement it is remarkably said,

"Also it is a proverbe of old date, 'The pryde of Fraunce, the treason of Inglande, and the warre of Ireland, shalle never have ende.' Whiche proverbe, twcheing the warre of Ireland, is lyke allwaye to contynue, withoute Godde sett in menues brestes to fynde some newes remedye, that never was founde before."

And the paragraph preceding is curious: in analysing the contents of a book by one Pandarus, who lived, according to Ware, in the reigns of Edward IV., Edward V., Rich. III., Henry VII., and, perhaps, of Henry VIII.; in which he "shows the cause of the miseries of Ireland, and prescribes proper remedies for the same, suitable to those times." Of this the writer says,

"The premissis consyderyd, the Pander shewyth in the fyrt chapitre of his booke, calldy 'Salus Populi,' that the holly wooman, Brigitta, used to inquyre of her good Angle many questions of secrete dyvine, and among all other, she inquyryd, 'Of what Crystyn lande was most sowiles damned?' The Angell shewyd her a lande in the weste parte of the worlde. She inquyrid the cause whye? The Angell sayde, for ther the crystyn folke dyeth moste oute of charytie. She inquyrid the cause whye? The Angell sayde, for ther is moste contynall warre, rote of hate and envy, and of vyceis contrarye to charytie; and withoute charytie the sowiles cannot be saveid. And the Angell dyd shew till her the lappes of the sowiles of crystyn folke of that lande, howe they fell downe into hell, as thyk as any haylle shewrys. And pytty therof moveid the Pander to consayn his said booke, as in the said chapitre playnly dothe appere; for, after his opinion, thus is the lande that th'Angell understande; for ther is no lande in this worlde of so long contynall warre within hymself, ne of so grete shedeing of chrystyng blodde, ne of so grete rubbeing, spoyleing, prayng, and burninge, ne of so grete wrongfull extortioun contynually, as Ireland. Wherfor it cannot be denied by very estymation of man, but that the Angell dyd understande the lande of Ireland."

As an example of the correspondence, we almost at hazard copy what follows:—

Surrey to King Henry VIII.

"Pleas it Your moost noble Grace to understand, that where as I, and others of Your Graces Counsall here, have divers tymes adverstyed Your Grace, how the Iryshmen bee confeirred to gyddres to destroy your poore subiectes; they contynue daily in theyr yll determinyd purpose, and aboutes 23 daies past assembled a right great power, after the maner of this land; whereof I, beeing adverstyed, assemblid the best power I might gather, and the 9th day of this moneth departid towards O'Conors country, where they were all to gyd-

* We not long since went over the New State Paper Office, and were equally astonished and delighted at the prodigious amount of classification and arrangement carried into effect by the indefatigable labours of these zealous functionaries.—*Ed. L. G.*

Conell is, however, mentioned in other despatches, and accounts of the wars.

ders. And notwithstanding that I contynued in his said country, unto Tuesday last past, brennyng all his townes and houses, and destryng a meravelous deale of corne, and also leyed siege to his castell, the strongest of all this land, and wanne the same; yit, of all the tyme I contynued there, they wold never fall to no conclusyon of peas, but aunsweirid pleynly to suche, as moovid to have peas betwene theyyme and me, that they wold never fall to peas with Englysshmen, tyll they had utterly destroyed theyme. Whoos wilfulness hath been right chargeable unto the said OConore; for he hath not onoly lost his castell, and all his countrey burned, but also so moche of his corne is destroyed, that his people shalbe enforced ethyer to forsake the countrey, or dye for hunger this wynter comyng. Undoubtedly, thees Irishmen bee soo soore confederet to gyddres, that I see no lyklyhood but contynuel warre, which shallbe right herde to withstand, without that the Englyshery, and moost especially the countie of Kyldare, shall take summe hurtes, principally for lak of oon good capeteyne to defende the same, when I am besy in othir countreys. Beseching Your Grace to advertyse me of your gracious pleasure, whether I shall kepe stylly OConors castell forsaid, called Monasteroverys, or delyver the same to hym agayne. As long as I shall kepe it, he wolle be at warre. And yf Your Grace entend to conucre this land, it is as necessary for the entre upon Irishmens countreys, as Berwyk is in Scotland. I have soo manned and vytalid the said castell, that, with Goddis grace, it shalbe out of daunger of Iryshmen, tyll I be advertised of your gracious pleasure. Signyfying unto Your Grace that when I was in OConors countrey, the Erll of Ormond made sharpe warre upon OKerrrol, and hath doon his part right wele. Beseching Your Grace to send your gracious letters of thankes unto him, aswele for his good counsall yevin to me, at all tymes, as for his paynfull diligent service doon to Your Grace here. Also, I have sner knowlage, by divers espayalles, that OKarwell dooth assemble a mouche gretter power, then he did this last tyme; enteding to make a great invasion upon Your Gracis poore subgietes. For the repressyng of whoos malycye, I assay all the frendes I can, aswele Englysh as Irysh; and shall doo my best, not onoly to let hym to invade Your Graces subgietes, but also to doo the moost hurtes I can to hym, and his partetakers. Also, oon Richard Pepyr, of Calays, hath of late robbed and de-spoyle twoo Brytton shippis, upon the see, and hath brought with hym oon of their ballyngers. He had in his company aboutes 20 persons, and they bee in preson at Corke. Beseching Your Grace, that I may be advertysed of your gracious pleasure, whate shall bee doon with hym and theyme. If Your Grace wolle have thyme put to execusyon, Your Grace muste send me a commysyon soo to doo; for I haue noon auctoritie otherwise to put theyme to deth, and the long keeping of theyme wolle bee chargeable to Your Grace. I can advertyse Your Grace of noo moo of their names, but onoly Rycharde Pepyr; wherfor, yf Your Grace wol have theym put to deth, there must be lefte a blanke in the comyssyon, for their names to bee put in when I shall know theyme. Also, I beseche Your Grace, that there may be joynd with me in the comyssyon, Patrike Brymyngham, Chief Justice of your Benche, Rycharde Delahyde, Chief Justice of the Comon Place, James Cantwell, Arthure Magyn, and Cormok McRoryk, Bachelors of Lawe. Also yf it myght stand with your gracious pleasure to send me a commysyon, with auctorite to

put to deth all rovers of the see, that shuld fortune to bee takyn in this land, it is thought by Your Gracis Counsall here, it shuld doo mouche good, for this land is the very land of refuge that Englysh pyrattes resort moost unto. And I, having the said comyssyon, Your Grace shuld bee at no charge in keeping of theyme, unto a comyssyon were sent fro Your Grace to me out of England. Beseching Your Grace, if it shall lyke Your Highness to sende me any of the said comyssyons, to geve me auctorite to pardon suche of thyme, as shall be thought by me, and Your Gracis Counsall here, the leest offenders, and most convenient to bee pardoned; orels, yf there were never soo many taken, all muste dye, which I feare mighte be rekenyd to bee too soore. Most humble beseching Your Grace, that I may brevely know your gracious pleasure in the premissis, and I shall dayle pray for the long prosperous contynewaunce of your most royall astate. Wryten in Your Graces Castell of Dublyn, the 29 day of July [1521]. Your most humble subject,

“ (Signed) T. SURREY.”

“ (Superscribed)

To the Kynges Most Noble Grace.”

“ The Lord Deputy and Council of Ireland to King Henry VIII.

“ May it please Your moost Excellent Highnes to be advertised, that I, your Deputie, with your armie in thes parties, the 14th day of March last past besieged the castell of Maynuth, which by your traitor and rebell, Thomas Fiz Gerolde, was so stronglie fortifid, booth with men and ordenaunce, as the liek hath not been seen in Irelande, synes anny your moost nobell progenitors had furst domynion in the lande. Ther was within the same above 100 habill men, wherof were above 60 gunners. The 16th day of the said moneth your ordenaunce was bent to the north west side of the dungen of the same castell, which ded baitter the top therof on that wise, as ther ordenaunce within that parte was damped; which doone, your ordenaunce was bent upon the northe-side of the base corte of the said castell, at the northeast ende wherof ther was new made a very stronge and fast bulwark, well garnished with men and ordenaunce, which the 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd dayes of the said monethe, ded beat the same, by night and daye, on that wise, that a great batery and a large enterie was made ther; wherupon the 23rd day, being Tewdays next before Eister Day, ther was a galiaarde assaulte gyven betwixt fower and fife of the clocke in the mornynge, and the base corte entered. At which entery ther was slayne of the warde of the castell aboute 60, and of Your Graces armie no more but John Griffen: yeman of your moost honorable Guarde, and sex other, which were killed with ordenaunce of the castell at the entree. Howbeit, if it had not pleased God to preserve us, it wert to be merveled that we had no more slayne. After the base corte was thus wonne, we assaulted the great castell, which within awhile yelded; wherin was the Dean of Kildare, Cristofer Parys, capitayne of the garysone, Donough ODogan, maister of thordenaunce, Sir Simon Walshe, priste, and Nicolas Wafer, which tooke the Archbusshop of Dublin, with dyvers other gunners and archers to the nomber of 37; which wer al taken prisoners, and their lites preserved by appoyntment, until they shulde be presented to me, your Deputie, and then to be orderid, as I and your Counsall thought good. And considering the high enterprise and presumption attempted by them ayenst Your Graces Crownes and Majestie, and

also that if, by anny meane, they shulde escape, the moost of theym beyng gunners, at some other tyme wold semblable eliswear aide your traitors, and be example and meane to others to doo lykewise, we all thought expedient and requisite, that they shulde be putto execution, for the dread and example of others. According wherunto, the Thursday following, in the mornynge, they wer examyned, and ther deposicions written; and after none the same daye arrayned before the propheet marshall and capitaines, and ther, upon ther awne confesions, adjudged to die, and ymmediatly 25 of them before the gate of the castell beed, and oon hanged. Dyverse of the heedes of the principalles, incontynently, wer put upon the turrets of the castell. We send Your Highnes hereinclosed the effect of ther deposicions, amonges which ther is a priste, which was privy with the traitor, depositis that the Emperor promised to send hether, against Your Grace, 10000 men, by the first day of Maye; and the Kinge of Scottes promised to yve aide to your rebell lykewise. We doo advertise Your Highnes therof, in discharge of our dutties, to thintent serche may be made of the furder circumstaunce therof; not doubting but, if anny soche thinge be intendid by thEmperor, or Kings of Scottes, Your Highnes hath some intelligence therof, and will provide for it accordingly; for, on les aide be sent hither from outwarte parties, this traitor shalbe pursued to his adnoyance and destruction, to the best of our powers, we trust to Your Graces honor. Albeit thenhabitauntes of this lande have an imagination and doubt, that he shoulde hereafter obteyne Your Graces pardone, as his ancessors, dyverse tymes, in like casess ded, which if, at anny tyme, he shulde, wer thay undoing, as they say. The same caused dyverse of thayn to adhere to hym, and others not to doo soche service, as they ells wolde.”

[To be continued.]

Scenes and Legends of the North of Scotland; or, the Traditional History of Cromarty. By Hugh Miller. 12mo. pp. 429. Edinburgh, 1835. A. and C. Black. London, Longman, and Co.

WE gather from this work that Mr. Miller belongs to a mechanical trade, and that his pen, in this instance, is taken up after laying down the chisel. It reflects high credit upon him, and preserves for his country the memory of many interesting events, as well historical and true, as local and legendary. Its pervading fault is an ambitious style. Grandiloquence is never so ill applied as upon records of this kind, of which, indeed, simplicity is one of the greatest merits. Had he only been less stilted and ornate, our pleasure in perusing the author's patriotic labours would have been considerably increased; and we trust that, if encouraged (as he well deserves) to publish a continuation, he will strive to prune exuberances uncongenial with the nature of his subjects. Thus of the Bay of Cromarty—compare Mr. Miller with his own quotation from Buchanan:

“ It has been described by Buchanan, in very elegant Latin, as ‘ formed by the waters of the German Ocean, opening a way through the stupendous cliffs of the most lofty precipices, and expanding within into a spacious basin, affording certain refuge against every tempest.’ The old poet could not have described it better had he sat on the loftiest pinnacle of these cliffs during a winter storm from the north-east, and seen vessel after vessel pressing towards the opening through spray and tempest;—like the inhabitants of an invaded

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country hurrying to the gateway of some impregnable fortress—their speed quickened by the wild shouts of the enemy, and pursued by the smoke of burning villages."

Among the most curious parts of his book is the account of Sir Thomas Urquhart, of Cromarty, a remarkable individual, of a remarkable and, ultimately, most unfortunate family. Sir Thomas was born in 1613, and lived to share in the sad transactions which deformed the middle of the seventeenth century. He was the projector of a universal language, and "His alphabet (we are told) consisted of ten vowels and twenty-five consonants. His radical classes of words amounted to two hundred and fifty; and, to use his own allegory, were the denizens of so many cities, divided into streets, which were again subdivided into lanes, the lanes into houses, the houses into stories, and the stories into apartments. It was impossible that the natives of one city should be confounded with those of another; and by prying into their component letters and syllables, the street, lane, house, storey, and apartment of every citizen, could be ascertained without a possibility of mistake. Simple ideas were expressed by monosyllables, and every added syllable expressed an added idea. So musical was this language, that for poetical composition it surpassed every other; so concise, that the weightiest thoughts could be expressed in it by a few syllables, in some instances by a single word; so precise, that even sounds and colours could be expressed by it in all their varieties of tone and shade; and so comprehensive, that there was no word in any language, either living or dead, that could not be translated into it, without suffering the slightest change of meaning. And with all its rich variety of phrase, so completely was it adapted to the associative faculty, that it was possible for a boy of ten years thoroughly to master it in the short space of three months. The entire work, consisting of a preface, grammar, and lexicon, was comprised in a manuscript of twelve hundred folio pages. Laborious as this work must have proved, it was only one of a hundred great works completed by Sir Thomas before he had attained his thirty-eighth year, and in a style so exquisitely original, that neither in subject nor manner had he been anticipated in so much as one of them. He had designed, and in part digested, four hundred more."

It is also hinted that Sir Thomas was the real author of the famous "Century of Inventions," ascribed to the Marquis of Worcester. Be this as it may, the old Castle of Cromarty, the seat of this race, was of an order to furnish as many inventions of wild and superstitious mystery; and Mr. Miller notices them with much effect.

We select, however, a specimen from another part, which is more readily separable:—

"In a central part of the churchyard of Nigg there is a rude undressed stone, near which the sexton never ventures to open a grave. A wild apocryphal tradition connects the erection of this stone with the times of the quarantine fleet. The plague, as the story goes, was brought to the place by one of the vessels, and was slowly flying along the ground, disengaged from every vehicle of infection, in the shape of a little yellow cloud. The whole country was alarmed, and groups of people were to be seen on every eminence, watching, with anxious horror, the progress of the little cloud. They were relieved, however, from their fears and the plague by a bold ingenious man of Nigg, whose name has ungratefully been suffered to die. This person having provided him-

self with an immense bag of linen, fashioned somewhat in the manner of a fowler's net, cautiously approached the yellow cloud, and with a skill which could have owed nothing to practice, he succeeded in inclosing the whole of it in the bag. He then secured it by wrapping it up carefully, fold after fold, and fastening it down with pin after pin; and, when the linen was gradually changed, as if under the hands of the dyer, from white to yellow, he consigned it to the churchyard, where it has slept ever since."

In his biographies of marked Cromarty-men our author is a little prolix; and some of them are hardly worth the pains taken to uplift them from their stations on the list *obscurorum virorum*. A long story of fellows hooking a whale with a fire-crook baited with a codling is of this description, and contrary to the habits of the fish, which never swallowed bait of the sort since whales were whales. We can rely more securely on the matter of fact of the following, with which we conclude. On the promontory of Tarbat Ness it is stated:—

"There was an inhabited cottage. The solitary tenant, an elderly woman, still known to tradition as Stine Bheag o' Tarbat, was famous at this time as one in league with Satan, and much consulted by seafaring men when windbound in any of the neighbouring ports. Her history, as related by her neighbours, formed, like the histories of all the other witches of Scotland, a strange medley of the very terrible and the very ludicrous. A shipmaster who had unwittingly offended her, had moored his vessel one evening within the rocky bay of Portmahomack, a haven of Tarbat; but on going on deck next morning, he found that the vessel had been conveyed during the night over the rocks and the beach, a broad strip of meadow, two cornfields, and a large moor, into deep muddy ditch; and there would she have lain till now, had he not found means to conciliate the witch, who, on the following night, transported her to her former moorings. With all this power, however, only a few weeks after, a farmer of the parish, whom she had long annoyed in the shape of a black beetle, succeeded in laying hold of her as she hummed round his bonnet, and confined her for four days in his snuff-box. Shortly before the arrival of the Cromarty men, a small sloop had been weather-bound for a few days in a neighbouring port; and the master applied to Stine for a wind. Part of his cargo consisted of foreign spirits; and on taking leave of the witch he brought with him two empty bottles, which he promised to fill, and send to her by the ship-boy. It was evening, however, before he reached the vessel; and the boy would not venture on carrying the bottles by night to her cottage; in the following morning they were forgotten in the hurry of sailing. The wind blew directly off the land, and from what the master deemed the very best point of the compass; the vessel scudded down the frith before it, under a tight sail; it freshened as the land receded, and the mainsail was lowered reef after reef; before evening it had increased into a hurricane. The master stood by the helm, and in casting an anxious glance at the binnacle, to ascertain his course, his eye caught the two bottles of Stine Bheag. 'Ah, witch!' he muttered, 'I must get rid of thee; and taking up one of the bottles, he raised his arm to throw it over the side, when he was interrupted by a hoarse croaking above head, and on looking up he saw two ravens hovering round the vane. The bottle was replaced. An immense wave came rolling behind in the wake of the vessel; it neared;

it struck the stern, and rushing over the deck, washed every thing before it, spars, coops, cordage; but only the bottles were carried overboard. In the moment they rose to the surface the ravens darted upon them, like sea-gulls on a shoal of coal fish; and the master, as the vessel swept along, could see them bearing them away. The hurricane gradually subsided into a moderate breeze, and the rest of the voyage was neither rough nor unprosperous; but the shipmaster, it was said, religiously determined never again to purchase a wind."

On another occasion she gave one Macglashan a favourable breeze in a stoup, stopped with a bunch of straw, with an injunction not to open it. This they disobeyed.

"What in the name of wonder," asked one of the crew, "can Stine Bheag ha' put in the stoup?" "Rax it this way," said another, "we would better be ony gate than in Cromarty, should the minister come to hear of it:—I'm thinking Mac had as weel fling out the wisp here as on the shore." "Think you so," said Macglashan, "then send the stoup this way." He drew out the stopple, and flung it over his head into the sea; but in the next moment, when half-a-dozen necks were stretched out to pry into the vessel, which proved empty, the man stationed at the bows roared out, "For Heaven's sake, lads, mind your haulyards! lower, lower, a squall from the land! we shall back, fill, and go down like a mussel shell." The crew clustered round the sails, and had succeeded in lowering them, when the squall struck the boat a head with the fury of a tornado, and almost forced her out of the water. The thwart were manned, but ere the rowers had bent to the first stroke, the oars were wrested out of their hands by the force of the hurricane. The bay around them was agitated as if beaten by rods; the wind howled in one continuous gust, without pause or intermission; and a cloud of spray, which arose from the waves like a sheet of drift from a field of snow, swept over them in so dense a volume, that it hid the land and darkened the heavens. As the boat drifted before the tempest the bay receded, the cliffs, the villages, the castles, were passed in hasty succession, and before noon the crew had landed at Tarbat Ness, where they found Stine Bheag sitting on the shore, as if waiting their arrival."

The Cromarty folks adhered to the Duke of Cumberland in the forty-five; and the author quotes a singular verse of a song of triumph upon the defeat of the Highlanders:—

"Loan's head i' the pat,
Horns and a' thegither,
We'll mak brose o' that,
An gie the swine their supper."

And here we retire to ours, wishing the swine a good appetite on the Fraser's horns and other choking offal.

NATURAL HISTORY.

WITH Spring the love of Natural History, in all its varied and interesting pursuits, seems to revive in the human breast; and that which enlivens the scientific mind throughout the year pervades more actively and generally the whole human race. Even those in close cities "ypent," as they perceive vegetable and animal life again surrounding them with refreshing scents, and lovely blooms, and the mingled melodies of minute creation—with sights and sounds all redolent of beauty and enjoyment—feel a new pleasure, and wish it were theirs to revel amid

"The pomp of groves, the garniture of fields."

But whether doomed to a Town or Country existence, every intelligent being may reap continual gratification and instruction from such branches of natural history as are within their reach; and we rejoice to observe the cultivation of this science daily spreading among the community. We may laugh at the Cockney in his often awkward attempts to investigate the secrets of nature; but we may depend upon it that the person so engaged, both for the innocence of the occupation and the improvement of character, is far more likely to be happy himself, and the source of contentment in his sphere of fellow-creatures, than many who affect to despise his puerile hunting of slow-paced snails or more desperate attempts upon butterflies and bees.*

With these few remarks we would beg to introduce to our readers two or three of the recent publications connected with our subject, and well worthy of approbation.

The Naturalist's Library. By Sir W. Jardine, Bart. Edinburgh, 1835, Lizards, and Stirling and Kenney; London, Highley; Dublin, Curry, Jun. and Co.

Pursuing his course, at once so accurate and so pleasing, Sir W. Jardine has in this volume commenced the division of Ichthyology, and introduced us to the far-famed family of the *perch*. From various obvious causes the study of fish has been the latest in the branches of natural science, and must long continue the most difficult and obscure. A bird in the hand is easily observed; animals may be domesticated or confined, and their habits traced; the very minutest insect under the powers of the microscope gives up its secrets to the skilful observer; but the dark unfathomed depths of ocean† defy our research, and even the clear stream that runs at our feet has mysteries which all our watchfulness cannot penetrate. For aught we can positively tell of their lives and behaviour, the Irish ballad may be true, and

"The trout and salmon
Playing at backgammon,
And the eels a-wrestling in the verdant mud;"

the porpoise may whistle so as to be mistaken for the dying swan; the vast kracken, like a sub-marine island, may still inhabit the northern seas; and the sea-serpent, of length interminable, whose head and tail were never seen by the same ship, or on the same day! may encircle the United States, like the symbol of eternal constancy on the guard to a wedding-ring. To those who take the trouble to investigate this subject, therefore, we are much indebted; and the interest is not a little increased by the doubts which hang around many of the facts and the strange results which so frequently mark new discoveries.

Our author adopts the system of Cuvier; and we select one of his definitions as an example of the rest.

* *Illustration of these pursuits.*—Once upon a time, and not long ago, a fond papa, desiring to encourage a child whom he thought too timid, told him in jest he would give him a penny if he ran and caught a humble-bee then in view. The little fellow looked up significantly enough, and replied, "I will catch a butterfly for a half-penny, rather, if you please!"

† The large-eyed pomatomus, according to M. Risso, is very rarely taken, never almost leaving the bottom of the deep sea. At Nice he was only aware of two specimens being taken during thirty years. The flesh is well-tasted, tender, and firm. It is remarkable for the immense size of the eyes, which occupy nearly the whole cheek, and is an example of that form of the organ in those species which generally keep at a depth beyond the penetration of the sun's rays, and which might be called nocturnal. Whether its sight is acute, or what peculiarities there are in the structure of the eye and its other organs, is yet a desideratum among Ichthyologists, the rarity of the species having hitherto prevented examination.

"*The Ruby-coloured Etelis.*—This genus is also formed from a single specimen, taken by M. Desumier near the Sechelle Islands, and from the beauty of its colouring, which Cuvier compares with the tints of the ruby, has received the specific name of *Carbunculus*. It differs from the perches in possessing strong and long teeth, by which it approaches to the structure of *Lucioperca*, but other parts of the teeth here also differ; the opercle is terminated by two spines. The eye of this splendid fish is a conspicuous object, and is of a golden orange. The scaling is large and marked, and the whole ground colour of the fish is bright ruby red, relieved by stripes of golden yellow, which run along the ridges of the scales. The length of M. Desumier's specimen was about eleven inches."

Of the "lettered serranus," he says, "There is a circumstance in the economy of this fish which merits observation and even further examination. It is asserted by Cuvier, who cites, in addition to his own observations, those of Cavolini, that the milt and roe are combined in one individual, and that the fish are in fact hermaphrodites. The milt, or body supposed to be so, is placed at the lower part of each roe or ovarium, growing and increasing with that organ, and appearing small and imperfect at the season when the spawn was little advanced. Fish with a milt only appear not to have been met with; and even among the ancients, to whom the fish was known, it was an accepted opinion, that females only existed."

The marks on the cheek, which resemble written characters, belong to that striking class of analogies in Nature which seem to connect all her kingdoms by wonderful ties together. Certain beetles, butterflies, shells, and flowers—all exhibit this remarkable feature: what pity that, like a great many publications, they should be quite unreadable!

On the flight of the flying-fish we observe Sir William rather inclines to Mr. Bennett's recently published opinion that they have no means of altering or regulating their aerial course, which is, in fact, only a leap ending in a fall when the first force is exhausted. We are of a different opinion, and will, as soon as we can find room, shew good grounds for agreeing with Cuvier and Dr. Abel in the opposite belief. The following are curious:—

"The *Perca scandens* transports itself, and scales rocks, and even plants that grow from the water, by means of the alternate use of the spines of the pectoral fins, and M. Renau has asserted that he knew a species of *Lophius* which walked about the house like a dog; while the *Doras costatus*, by the bony arms of its fins, assisted by the plates under the belly, which work like those of serpents, can march over land as fast as a man can leisurely walk. The body of fishes is lubricated by a slimy fluid, prepared in a series of glands generally placed near and about the fore parts, a beautiful natural arrangement, to allow the fluid to be carried backward; or the same office is performed in a more mechanical manner by what is called the lateral line, and which is in reality a canal on the scales, which is either continuous, and conveys the lubricating fluid backwards from the head and neck, or has a communication with a series of glands laterally disposed. In the skate there is a large serpentine vessel which surrounds the mouth, runs between the skin and the muscles at the sides of the five apertures into the gills, and likewise surrounds the nostrils; then it passes from the under to the upper part of the upper jaw, where it runs backwards as far as the eyes.

From the principal part of this duct, in the under side or belly of the fish, there are not above six or eight outlets; but from the upper part near the eyes there are above thirty small ducts sent off, which open on the surface of the skin. But besides this very picturesque duct, there is on each side of the fish, a little further forwards than the foremost of the five breathing holes, a central part from which a prodigious number of ducts issue, to terminate on almost the whole surface of the skin, excepting only the snout or upper jaw. At these centres the ducts are all shut, and in their course have no communication with each other. In the skate the whole cellular substance of the nose or snout secretes a mucus, which is dispersed by bundles of tubes opening exteriorly. The eel and conger have large openings at different parts of the nose, communicating with numerous lengthened vessels analogous to the winding canals of the skate. But in almost every fish these have a distribution differently managed according to their wants, forming one of the most beautiful and necessary provisions in their whole structure. *

"In some fishes the eyes are remarkable for their minuteness, and to several species the specific name *Ceca*, or *blind*, has been applied. These, like the mole in her dark galleries, live in the banks of muddy rivers, and are no doubt furnished with some more exquisite sense to supply their wants, and minister to their sustenance. In the *Gastrobranchus*, a fish remarkable in all its structure, no trace whatever of eyes has yet been discovered."

But what adds greatly to the value and interest of the study of ichthyology in our day, is its union with those singular inquiries which are disclosing the fossil remains of antecedent ages, when the waters were inhabited by creatures first altogether dissimilar from, and more recently approximating to the species they now contain.

"Previous to 1600, there are perhaps few records of fossil fishes. Fabius Columna and Worm wrote 'De Glossopetris'; in the following century, we had Scheuchzer and Fischer; and, towards its conclusion, the 'Itiologica Vernose of Volta,' a large folio containing seventy-six plates, which, if not very faithful in execution, shewed the interest which was at this time excited; but it was not until so late as 1818 that an enumeration of the fossil species previously known was first attempted by De Blainville in 'Le Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle.' Since then, the science has gradually advanced, from its intense interest, and its connexion with the studies of the geologist; and at the commencement of the last year, it assumed a most important station from the researches of a naturalist of Switzerland, and the appearance of the first numbers of a work devoted to the department. The 'Recherches sur les Poissons Fossiles' of Louis Agassiz will undoubtedly mark the commencement of a new era in this science; for, independent of the perspicuity and clearness with which the department itself is illustrated, the study of existing species, being necessary for a knowledge of those which are extinct, has induced the author to give his views of the science generally, and to propose an arrangement entirely different from those of his predecessors, the characters of which are principally taken from the form and structure of the scales. His orders are as follow:—I. *Placoidians*—so named from the irregularity presented by the solid parts of their covering, composed of masses of enamel. It includes many fossil forms, the sharks and rays.

II. *Ganoidians*—containing varied forms, the sauroid fishes, siluri, sturgeons, &c. characterised by scales of an angular form, composed of two substances, plates of horn or bone, placed one upon another, and covered by a thick layer of enamel.—III. *Ctenoidians*—the common character is in the thin plates forming the scales being pectinated or toothed on their posterior edge, which makes them feel rough to the touch. It contains the chetodonts, pleuronectes, the percoid fishes, &c.—IV. *Cycloïdians*—they have the scales formed of simple plates, those of the lateral line with a tube for the transmission of the lubricating mucus. It includes the mullets, salmon, cyprini, &c.* The situation in our systems which has been allotted to fishes, has generally been the fourth place, or the lowest rank, in the scale of the vertebrata. They seem to have been more particularly connected with the class which immediately precedes them, by those most extraordinary creatures, long since extinct, but which now occupy so much of the attention of the geologist, the *Ichthyosaurus* or fish-lizards, and which the discovery of new forms leads us to believe were a numerous race, perhaps possessing intermediate ability to exist either in air or water. Fishes are entirely inhabitants of the waters, peopling this immense portion of our globe with their shoals, and serving to keep in check the varied creatures of still lower structure, while they themselves are held in check, and afford sustenance to millions which have been placed in our systems above them. In form they are perhaps the most varied beings in creation, and the most fertile fancy could scarcely depict a shape or appearance to which a resemblance would not be found. They are of 'hideous and loathsome bulk,' or of the most graceful forms, and gorgeous and resplendent colours; but still among all these we may trace the characteristic shape of a fish, in the head being placed at once upon the shoulders without any length of neck, followed by the body, and finished by the tail; and the parts will be all adapted to the different modes of gaining sustenance, whether it is to be procured by stealth and deceit, or by strength and swiftness."

With this striking extract we close the excellent volume before us, and add only two or three brief memoranda.

Would not an **ICHTHYOLOGICAL SOCIETY** be desirable? Zoology and Entomology have their distinct schools: why not Fishes?

Under such an institution, if not without it, might not many useful and beneficial varieties be introduced to our lakes, rivers, and ponds?

The plates in this work are beautifully executed; and Mr. Lizar's views of the scenery near which the originals abound, render them charming as productions of art, independently of the portraits.

We hope the author will avoid in future the employment of words which are not English. That some fish "can progress out of the water," or "have progressed," is true enough, but it might have been told in our own language.

A History of British Fishes. By W. Yarrell, F.L.S. Parts I. II. 8vo. pp. 96. London, 1835. Van Voorst.

Having, in our report of the "Linnæan So-

cietry Transactions" (*Lit. Gaz.* No. 946, p. 153, col. 1, 2), stated the high claims which this work possesses to universal acceptance, we abstained from noticing it also in our usual reviewing department. But the second part is now on our table, and it would be injustice not to repeat our eulogy upon the merits of Mr. Yarrell's performance. It supplies a grand desideratum; and one especially interesting to the English naturalist, and, indeed, to the English people.

In his Part I. Mr. Yarrell figures fifteen species, and gives nine vignettes illustrative of form and structure. One of the British species of perch is new. The following is generally important:—

"That the great weever prefers deep water, that it lives constantly near the bottom, that it is tenacious of life when caught, and that its flesh is excellent, are four points that have been already noticed; but this subject, in reference to fishes generally, may be further illustrated. It may be considered as a law, that those fish that swim near the surface of the water have a high standard of respiration, a low degree of muscular irritability, great necessity for oxygen, die soon—almost immediately, when taken out of water, and have flesh prone to rapid decomposition. On the contrary, those fish that live near the bottom of the water have a low standard of respiration, a high degree of muscular irritability, and less necessity for oxygen; they sustain life long after they are taken out of the water, and their flesh remains good for several days. The carp, the tench, the various flat fish, and the eel, are seen gaping and writhing on the stalls of the fishmongers for hours in succession; but no one sees any symptom of motion in the mackerel, the salmon, the trout, or the herring, unless present at the capture. These four last-named, and many others of the same habits, to be eaten in the greatest perfection, should be prepared for table the same day they are caught; but the turbot, delicate as it is, may be kept till the second day with advantage, and even longer without injury; and fishmongers generally are well aware of the circumstance, that fish from deep water have the muscle more dense in structure—in their language, more firm to the touch—that they are of finer flavour, and will keep longer, than fish drawn from shallow water. The law referred to has its origin in the principles of organisation; and though it would be difficult for the anatomist to demonstrate those deviations in structure between the trout and the tench which give rise to these distinctions and their effects, it is only necessary to make the points of comparison wider to be assured of the fact. Between a fish with a true bony skeleton, the highest in organisation among fishes, and the lamprey, the lowest, the differences are most obvious. If we for a moment consider the lamprey, which is the lowest in organisation of the vertebrated animals, with only a rudimentary vertebral column, as the supposed centre of zoological structure, and look from thence up and down the scale of organisation, we at the extreme on one side arrive at man, to whom division of his substance would be destruction; but, on the other, we come to the polype, the division of which gives rise to new animals, each possessing attributes, not only equal to each other, but equal also to the animal of

which they previously formed but a small part."

This is the utility of philosophy, and shews how science may be made to contribute to even the most homely comforts.

The second part continues the Gurnards; and at the Miller's Thumb we have an amusing account of the application of that name to the River Bullhead.

"The head of the fish is smooth, broad, and rounded, and is said to resemble exactly the form of the thumb of a miller, as produced by a peculiar and constant action of the muscles in the exercise of a particular and most important part of his occupation. It is well known that all the science and tact of a miller is directed so to regulate the machinery of his mill, that the meal produced shall be of the most valuable description that the operation of grinding will permit when performed under the most advantageous circumstances. His profit or his loss, even his fortune or his ruin, depend upon the exact adjustment of all the various parts of the machinery in operation. The miller's ear is constantly directed to the note made by the running-stone in its circular course over the bed-stone, the exact parallelism of their two surfaces, indicated by a particular sound, being a matter of the first consequence: and his hand is as constantly placed under the meal-spout, to ascertain, by actual contact, the character and qualities of the meal produced. The thumb, by a particular movement, spreads the sample over the fingers; the thumb is the gauge of the value of the produce, and hence have arisen the sayings of, 'Worth a miller's thumb,' and 'An honest miller hath a golden thumb,'—in reference to the amount of the profit that is the reward of his skill. By this incessant action of the miller's thumb, a peculiarity in its form is produced, which is said to resemble exactly the shape of the head of the fish constantly found in the mill-stream, and has obtained for it the name of the Miller's Thumb, which occurs in the comedy of 'Wit at several Weapons,' by Beaumont and Fletcher, act v. scene i.; and also in Merrett's 'Pinax.' Although the improved machinery of the present time has diminished the necessity for the miller's skill in the mechanical department, the thumb is still constantly resorted to as the best test for the quality of flour."

The annexed quotation also deserves notice:—

"M. Fleurens, a French physiologist, has explained what appears to be the true cause of death in a fish kept out of water. If its motions be attentively watched, it will be seen that, although the mouth be opened and shut continually, the arches supporting the branchiae, or gills, are not separated, nor are the branchial filaments expanded—all remain in a state of collapse: the intervention of a fluid is absolutely necessary to effect their separation and extension; without it these delicate fibres adhere together in a mass, and cannot in that state receive the vivifying influence of oxygen. The situation of the fish is similar to that of an air-breathing animal enclosed in a vacuum, and death by suffocation is the consequence. To this may be added, that the duration of life in each species, when out of water, is in an inverse ratio to the necessity for oxygen."

Mr. Yarrell's description of the sticklebacks, these Lilliputian sharks, is curious and entertaining; his plates admirable, and several of the vignettes, such as an overshot water-mill, by Constable, perfect gems of art.

(To be continued.)

* If we estimate the number of fish now known to amount to about 8000, we may state that more than three-fourths of this number belong to two only of the above-mentioned orders, the *Cycloïdians* and *Ctenoidians*, whose presence has not been discovered in formations below the chalk. The other fourth part of living species is referable to the orders *Placoidians* and *Ganoidians*, which are now

far from numerous, but which existed during the whole period which elapsed since the earth began to be inhabited, to the time when the animals of the Greensand lived. M. Agassiz does not know a single species of fossil fish which is found successively in two formations, while he is acquainted with a good number which have a very considerable horizontal extent.—*Ed. Phil. Jour.* xxxv. 175."

Melanies; and other Poems. By N. P. Willis.

Edited by Barry Cornwall. 12mo. pp. 231. London, 1835. Saunders and Otley.

SPIRITS and water, *i. e.* Byron and water, Moore and water, *et cetera* and water! Such are the elements of the myriad of little hot-pressed volumes which

"Come into the open air and die."

That before us sets up a kindly claim upon our treatment, which it were inhospitable to deny; and yet what can we say? Mr. Willis writes easy and graceful verse, with now and then a touch of thought and feeling; and having said so much, our hospitality and justice are at variance; for these our eulogium has done its utmost. Mr. Willis is none of those poets who make a literature in the first instance or awaken it in the second. He has neither warmth nor originality; and has more taste than talent. The following poem is one that pleases us most; it has both truth and simplicity.

"The Belfry Pigeon.

"Mine eyes are sick of this perpetual flow
Of people, and my heart of one sad thought."—*Shelley.*

On the cross beam under the old south bell
The nest of a pigeon is builded well.
In summer and winter that bird is there,
Out and in with the morning air:
I love to see him track the street,
With his wary eye and active feet;
And I often watch him as he springs,
Circling the steeple with easy wings,
Till across the dial his shade has passed,
And the belfry edge is gained at last.
"Tis a bird I love, with its brooding note,
And the trembling throb in its mottled throat;
There's a human look in its swelling breast,
And the gentle curve of its lowly crest;
And I often stop with the fear I feel—
He runs so close to the rapid wheel.
Whatever is rung on that noisy bell—
Chime of the hour, or funeral knell—
The dove in the belfry must hear it well.
When the tongue swings out to the midnight moon—
When the sexton cheerily rings for noon—
When the clock strikes clear at morning light—
When the child is waked with "nine at night"—
When the chiming play soft in the Sabbath air,
Filling the spirit with a sense of prayer—
Whatever tale in the bell is heard,
He broods o'er his folded wings, and mourns,
Or rising half in his rounded nest,
He takes the time to smooth his breast,
Then drops again with flumed eyes,
And sleeps as the last vibration dies.
Sweet bird! I would that I could be
A heron in the crowd like thee;
With wings to fly to wood and glen,
Thy lot, like mine, is cast with men;
And daily, with unwilling feet,
I tread, like thee, the crowded street;
But unlike me, when day is o'er,
Thou canst dismiss the world and soar,
Or, at a half-felt wish for rest,
Canst smooth thy feathers on thy breast,
And drop, forgetful, to thy nest.
I would that in such wings of gold
I could my weary heart unfold;
I would I could look down unmoved
(Unloving as I am unloved),
And while the world throng on beneath,
Smooth down my cares and calmly breathe;
And never sad with others' sadness,
And never glad with others' gladness,
Listen, unstrung, to knell or chime,
And, lapt in quiet, bide my time."

If there were any thing wanting to convince us of the absurd practice for some celebrated writers to lend their names to title-pages, and calling it editing the work, the present would be sufficient. What has Barry Cornwall done for these pieces? Nothing! For we suppose that Mr. Willis will scarcely admit that he has had either his spelling or his false quantities corrected. Oh, yes!—he has written an ill-judged preface. There is something very ludicrous in the mutual politeness passing between editor and author. It unfortunately reminds us of the old Scotch proverb, "Claw me, claw thee!" One assertion is false—that which says American genius has been unfairly neglected in this country. It is not so. What could more

instance the contrary than the appreciation of Washington Irving?—Are not Cooper's novels in every library?—Bryant's Poems received the most cordial welcome—and Hallech's noble poem on visiting the grave of Burns, first quoted in these columns, has been copied in half the papers of England.

Seiler's Biblical Hermeneutics. Translated by the Rev. W. Wright, LL.D. of Trinity College, Dublin. 8vo. pp. 652. London, 1835. Westley and Davis.

BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS, or the science of Scripture interpretation, seems to be gaining ground in this country, if we may judge by the number of works that have lately appeared on this important subject. These are chiefly translations from the learned and industrious Germans, who have made hermeneutics much more of a science than it has ever been regarded among us. It cannot be doubted that this may be carried occasionally too far, and that the obvious meaning of a passage may be sacrificed for the sake of making it agree with some supposed rule; but, generally speaking, all will admit, that he who is acquainted with the just principles of interpretation must be better qualified to perceive for himself, and convey to others, the meaning of an author, than he who is unprovided with such helps. The object of the present work is to lay down rules for the right explanation of the Scriptures; among which are comprehended the principles and general rules prescribed by reason, the signification and use of words separate and in combination—the employment of versions, paraphrases, and free translations—a knowledge of Oriental antiquities, customs, manners, geography, natural history, medicine, chronology, &c. On all these, and many other subjects, references are given to the best works extant: they are, as may be supposed, chiefly German; but the translator has also added many others, principally in English. We have, however, missed some books in German which we expected to find in the lists; one in particular, on the Song of Solomon, viz. Ewald's *Das Hohelied Salomo's übersetzt, mit Einleitung, Anmerkungen, &c.* published at Göttingen in 1826, and containing, besides an admirable version, line for line, some of the most learned and valuable preliminary remarks and notes we have seen on this beautiful, but till lately, in our opinion, totally misunderstood, production. We are the more surprised at the omission, as Ewald has taken pretty nearly the same view of the Song as Seiler has done: Ewald calls it *ein nicht für die Bühne bestimmes Drama*, a drama not intended for the stage,—says it consists of four acts,—and that the design of the author, whoever he was (certainly not Solomon), is "the praise of innocence that withstands all allurements." Seiler thinks the book is a collection of sonnets; and that the chief aim consists in a "commendation of conjugal fidelity, and of pure love to one wife only."

Among the Hebrew grammars we also looked in vain for Gesenius's, though his Lexicon is mentioned. Of his Grammar, all who are acquainted with it acknowledge the great value; and though he has, perhaps, bestowed too much attention on synthesis, and too little on analysis, yet, as a whole, it is the most useful and copious work with which we are acquainted.

We were also rather surprised to find the learned translator saying that the Lexicon of Simonis, and the Supplements of Michaelis, "are now generally superseded in this country, as well as on the continent," by Gesenius's. The Lexicon of Simonis, edited by Eichhorn in 1793, and recently re-edited and greatly augmented by

Winer in 1828, contains all that is valuable in Gesenius, besides references to most of the latest works that have been published on the continent, and is in great demand every where: it likewise answers many of the purposes of a Concordance, from the number of passages cited under every word of importance. In shewing the affinities with the cognate dialects, *in propriis characteribus*, it has as yet no equal. As to Michaelis' Supplements, we never understood that it was intended to supply the place of a general Lexicon; and on reference to that work, we find its learned editor Tychsen stating, "Noluit ille lexicon integrum conscribere, quo in tanta lexicorum copia non opus esse putaret; sed *ius que ipse per plures annos obseruasset, supplere et corrigeret vulgaria lexia.*"

We conclude by expressing the pleasure we have experienced in reading this admirable translation. This is indeed translation; and, but for a peculiarity here and there ("future theologian," for instance), could not be distinguished from original composition. The liberal manner in which Dr. Wright has acknowledged his obligations to Dr. Pye Smith, an Independent, and he himself of Trinity College, Dublin, is not the least agreeable feature in his work.

Literary Fables, from the Spanish of Yriarte. By Richard Andrews. 8vo. pp. 128. London, 1835. Smith, Elder, and Co.

YRIARTE, who died some forty-five years ago, among other entertaining productions, composed these fables, which so far differ from all preceding them, from *Æsop* to *Gay*, as to be devoted entirely to the illustration of literary subjects,—authorship, compilation, criticism, genius, plagiarism, puffing, publishing, and other *componencies*. They are here translated in a facile manner; and, with few exceptions, in easy and correct verse. We say with few exceptions, for there are some which seem to be almost misprints; as for example—

"He make no bad a cock, I vow,
The little fellow's youthful now!"—(P. 80.)

which is not English construction.

With regard to the general design, it is amusing, and just, and sensible. The remarks are good, and the lessons worthy of attention. Indeed, as there is a great falling off in what can be learnt from human spouters and scribblers; there is somewhat of a freshness in taking instruction from spiders, and ducks, parrots, fleas, bears, hogs, monkeys, pigs, mules, beetles, drones, rats, lizards, leeches, frogs, toads, vipers, magpies, owls, moles, cuckoos, and asses.

We must give two or three instances of what they say. The following is a fair satire upon the pestiferous fashion of interlarding your style with foreign phraseology:—

"*The Two Parrots*

A lady from Mauritius brought
Two parrots, who, it chanced, were caught
In different quarters of the isle,
And spoke a different tongue and style:
For as the land divided lies
'Twixt French and English colonies,
It was no wonder that each bird
Should speak the language he had heard,
Thus, jabbering on in either tongue,
In the verandah as they hung,
They made it soon a second *Babel*:
Talking as fast as they were able,
In French and English mixed together,
Till it was really doubtful whether,
Ere long, they had not quite forgot
Which was their own, and which was not,
Had not the dame their music thwarted,
By having the companions parted.
The French philosopher soon spurned
The little English he had learned;
And, ere a dozen days were o'er,
Conversed as purely as before.

Not so the English parrot thought;
The gallicisms he had caught
He as an ornament regarded,
With which his speech he interlarded.
It chanced one day he grumbling stood,
Because they gave him beans for food:

'Peste on these seeds, *de mauvaises mines*,
I'm not *au fait* at eating beans,
The *prestige*, once my sure defence
Against such *betise* negligence,
Has vanished, and *un je ne sais quoi*
Of meanness seems my keeper's law.'

A cunning monkey, who was near,
And chanced the jargon to overhear,
With a most ludicrous grimace,
Held his out laughing in his face.

'Ho! ho!' exclaimed the angry bird,
Not doubting with a single word
The monkey's mouth with shame to close,
'Sir, you a purist I suppose?'

'I am, indeed,' the other cried,
'And bear the name with joy and pride.'

Transform these animals to men,
Would not the tale be better then?'

When we read in the newspapers and advertisements the strings of complimentary eulogies, quoted from fifty of our contemporaries, upon works which we have examined and found utterly worthless, we are astonished at the phenomenon; but our author explains it:—

'The Bear, the Monkey, and the Pig.'

A bear, with whom a Piedmontese
Had voyaged from the Polar seas,
And by whose strange unweildy gambols
He earned a living in his rambles,
One day, upon his hind-legs set,
Segan to dance a minuet.

At length, being tired, as well he might,
Of standing such a time upright,
He to a monkey near advancing,
Exclaimed—'What think you of my dancing?'

'Really,' he said, 'ahem! I'm sure
This monkey was a connoisseur,
To praise it, I'd indeed be glad,
Only it is so very bad!'

'How!' cried the bear, not over pleased,
Surely your judgment is diseased,
Or else you cannot well have seen
My elegante of step and mien;

Just look again, and say what graces
You think are wanting in my paces.'

'Indeed, there is something amazing,'
Replied a pig, with rapture gazing;

'Bravo! encore! well done! Sir Bear,
By heaven, you trip as light as air;

I vow that Paris never knew
A dancer half so fine as you.'

With some confusion, Bruin heard
Such praises by a pig conferred;
He communed with himself awhile,
And muttered thus, in altered style:
'I must confess the monkey's blame
Made me feel doubtful of my fame;
But since the pigs their praise concede,
My dancing must be bad, indeed!'

Form, if you can, a judgment true,
Authors, or those who judge of you:
A wise man's blame may make one sad,
But a fool's praise is twice as bad.'

Another fable describes a zoologist carefully dissecting a lizard, and concludes, pertinently, thus. Another lizard *loquitur*:—

*'I saw the man a whole day bend
Above the carcass of our friend :
Who calls us reptiles? now? how long
Shall we submit to such a wrong,
When we are equal in qualities, inviting
Such eager search, such careful writing?
My noble brethren—give not way!
They value us, what's that they say!'*

And miserable authors, who
Are treated thus, will think thus too;
Such men much honour doth beseech,
If they are criticised at all.
A superficial view and slight
Benefits the nonsense that they write,—
To fuss about a lizard's worth,
But tempts these reptiles of the earth
With arrogance to shout away:
'They value us, what's that they say!'

Elsewhere some voyagers introduce hens into a country, the natives of which soon inflate themselves with the most consummate vanities for inventing many ways of dressing the eggs.

*'All claimed the praise of something new,
And all gained honours more than due,
Until a sage sat his bent,
To dispel their self-content.
'My friends,' the censor cried, one day,
'For cooking in outlandish way*

*The merit may be other men's;
But I praise him who brought us hens.'*

The doers of our cheap and modern literature would do well to reflect on this—they cackle enough even when their eggs are addled, but who brought the hens?

We conclude with another critical application:—

'The Viper and the Leech.'

“ Dear sister leech,” the viper cried,
Gently approaching to her side,
“ Since you, like me, bite when you can,
Why does unjust and partial man
So differently treat the two?
Submitting to be bit by you,
You stinging me with hate and fear,
And shedding if I come but near.”

“ Brother,” replied the leech, “ you're right
In saying that we both do bite:
But, as 'tis easy to detect,
With very different effect.
My mouth a healing virtue gives,
I bite the dying man, he lives:
While, and you know it to be true,
The healthiest dies, if touched by you.”

Observe, ye readers, then, and writers,
That critics, doubtless, all are biters;
Yet that a wide distinction runs
'Twixt useful and malignant ones.”

We never wished ourselves leeches before, but now there can be no choice; and all that we can promise our friends and readers to do is to continue to bite them in the most seductive and medicinal manner.

MOODIE'S SOUTH AFRICA.

The following formed part of our review in No. 949, but was deferred for want of room:—

“ Of late years silk-worms have been introduced at Cape Town; and it is expected that the production of silk in so favourable a climate will afford a valuable source of employment, and, in time, supply the place of the cultivation of the vine, which has for several years, as I have already observed, been in a declining state. The scarcity of labour in the interior of the colony will, however, for a long period, prevent the colonists from availing themselves of this branch of industry; for the management of silk-worms requires both much manual labour and a minute attention, which the farmers of the interior cannot well spare from their other occupations. * * *

“ The management of the milch cows is somewhat peculiar in this country. The cattle are a mixed breed, between the original African race and the European; and few of the cows will give their milk without allowing their calves to suck for some time. But as all the calves are reared to increase the stock, no inconvenience is felt from this circumstance. An oblong enclosure is made with strong poles fixed in the ground, with a pen at one end to confine the calves until they are wanted. Into this pen the calves are driven before the cows come home from grazing in the evening. The cattle being never housed, become excessively wild; and to catch and tie a young cow to her post in the 'kraal,' is a matter of no small difficulty, and sometimes not free from danger. On the first attempt to take hold of the calf in the field, the enraged cow generally runs furiously at the person who presumes to interfere in her family concerns, when he must take care to get out of her way with all convenient speed, or abide the consequences of a disagreeable collision with her horns. If he can succeed in catching up the calf in his arms, he is then safe from injury, on account of his burden; which he may forthwith proceed to deposit in the pen, unmindful of the menacing gestures of the angry mother. But the worst part of his task still remains to be achieved—to secure the cow; and this is as much as two or three people generally can manage. The

moment the animal perceives that an attempt is made to convey a noose round her horns by means of a long stick, and the attempt fails, she becomes so impatient and shy that it is necessary to change the point of attack. One of the people now endeavours, by means of the stick, to get the noose round her hind leg when she lifts her foot from the ground, which operation requires much dexterity. As soon as this end is effected, the thong used for the purpose is drawn tight by the assistants, and secured round one of the poles of the 'kraal'; when the animal becomes perfectly furious, bellowing, kicking, and plunging. Wo be to him that comes within the length of her tether! for, with inflamed eyes and tongue lolled out, she runs indiscriminately at everything that comes within her reach. But, taking advantage of her turnings, the people, who are secure from her rage behind the poles of the 'kraal,' gradually tighten the thong and confine her efforts until her leg is drawn up close to the pole, and they can venture to approach her head and fasten to her horns another thong, which is then conveyed round a pole on the opposite side of the 'kraal.' One thong is then slackened and the other tightened until the cow's head is secured to her post, where she is allowed to fume and bellow till she is tired and becomes more manageable. At the time of milking, a boy stands at the door of the pen, and lets the calves out as they are wanted, for they soon learn to answer to their names. After allowing the calf to suck for a few minutes, they proceed to milk all they can get from the cow, which generally retains enough for her young. The quantity of milk the cows yield is in this part of the colony very inconsiderable. Twenty cows seldom give more than from twenty-four to thirty-six quarts at a milking; but it is generally very rich in quality. It is remarkable, notwithstanding the intractability of the other cattle, that the bulls have none of the ferocity of those in England.”

The Hottentots are passionately fond of music, and readily acquire a tune. A German officer having played Gluck's *Che faro senza Euridice*, “ was surprised to observe that he was listened to by some Hottentot women with the deepest attention, and some of them were even affected to tears. In a day or two afterwards, he heard his favourite melody with accompaniments all over the country, wherever his wanderings led him.”

Their passion for brandy is equally strong; but they are not indebted to Europeans for their knowledge of intoxicating liquors, as is commonly supposed; though the introduction of brandy among them has had the effect of increasing the habit of drunkenness tenfold, by facilitating the means of gratification. They have long been acquainted with a particular plant which grows in some of the most arid situations of the interior of the colony, and is only known to a few of them; this plant, as well as the drink which is made by its means, is called 'Karree.' The root is dug up and carefully dried in the sun, and is then stamped to a powder between two stones, and kept in a bag, which is generally hung up in their huts. When the Hottentots find any honey in the woods or rocks, they dilute it copiously with water, made a little warm, and put into a bucket, which is covered over with a thick cloth. A small quantity of the powder is then added to the liquid, which it has the property of fermenting. So rapid is the process, that I have often seen them commence the operation at eight or nine o'clock at night, and be furiously intoxicated and beating their wives long

before daylight the next morning. A remarkable circumstance connected with this plant is, that the quantity of the powder is very much increased, like yeast, at each brewing. When the liquid is sufficiently fermented, it is poured off; and the powder, now quadrupled in quantity, is taken out and washed in clean water, and then suspended in a small bag to dry. It is thus that the Hottentots keep up their supply of this fermenting powder, and sell what they do not require to their neighbours. I have known them give a cow for half a cupful. It is not from the report of the Hottentots that I state the circumstance of the powder increasing in quantity, having tried it myself with sugar and water, and had ocular demonstration of the fact: but sugar soon destroys the virtue of the powder. I have also used every endeavour to get a sight of the plant growing; but the Hottentots, to whom it is familiar, are so jealous of their secret, that I could never prevail on any of them to point it out to me. I have been told by a botanist who knew much of these people, that the 'karree' plant is a species of *Mesembryanthemum*; but I cannot vouch for his correctness. *

"The superstitions of the Hottentots are confined to the belief in witchcraft and the power of charms; and few of them are without some article to protect themselves against real and imaginary dangers. They carefully preserve a certain skin on the birth of a child, a part of which is put in a little bag and hung round its neck, to be worn through life as a safeguard against all kind of evils. When an elephant is killed, they also cut out some pieces of skin, which are usually found in a small cell in the skin of the head, and wear them about the neck, which they think effectually secures the wearer from the rage of that dangerous animal. Few elephant hunters are without this potent charm. They also, as well as the Dutch colonists, believe in the existence of certain strange animals which have never been seen by any of the English inhabitants of the colony, though they positively assert having beheld them themselves. One of these creatures is known by the name of the 'dassie,' or rabbit-adder; which, they say, has the body of a snake, exceedingly short and thick, and a hairy head resembling a rabbit, but so horrible in its aspect that the unhappy beholder is deprived of the power of making his escape from its basilisk glance. A Hottentot at the missionary institution of Bethelshordp, when hunting in a thick wood in that neighbourhood, fancied he saw this dreadful animal, and died a few days afterwards in consequence of the fright. He gave one of the missionaries, from whom I heard the story, a minute account of its appearance. There is another fancy which is general among the Dutch, Hottentots, and Kaffres, that people may be bewitched by burying knives, forks, spoons, or any other articles belonging to them, under the threshold of their doors."

The second volume yet requires a brief notice; but for the present this must suffice.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Treatise on Equitation: simplified for Amateurs, by J. G. Peters, late Lieut-Col. and Superintendent of the Cavalry Riding Establishment, &c. &c. Large 8vo. pp. 320. (London, Whittaker and Co.) — The author of this work is evidently a perfect master of the matter of which he treats, and the result is that simplicity and clearness which leave us nothing to wish for in the way of further instruction. The management needed in the training of horses, and the familiar lessons for beginners in riding, are admirably given; but, indeed, there is no part of the subject which is not handled in the best possible manner; and we could not recommend a volume of more real value on the horse, its treatment, and the delightful

exercise it affords. Nearly thirty plates add to facilities of studying both grace and security in this enjoyment.

The Biblical Cabinet, Vol. I. (Edinburgh, T. Clark; London, Rivingtons; Dublin, Currys and Co.) — Pareau's Principles of Biblical Interpretation is a work highly esteemed by theologians on the continent; and therefore we are glad to see it translated and republished in this country. We are, however, sorry to say that the manner in which it has been accomplished is one not likely to render it popular among English students. The translation (from the Latin) is so bad, that from it we would be bound, though we have never seen the original, to turn many of the sentences back again into almost the identical words of Pareau. This may be "giving the sense of the author without either addition or diminution"; but in almost every page the translator is so long goes much further, and the idiom [editions?] of the two languages will permit." We repeat, we are sorry that this has not been taken into the present, which we are sure might have been done, not only without losing "the exact shade of meaning which the author intended to convey," but in such a way as to exhibit it much more closely than can ever be effected by such a translation as that now before us. We may add, while on this subject, what we have frequently noticed, that the theological writings and pulpits exercises of our Northern friends, though pregnant with sound divinity and considerable learning, are yet, in many cases, so lamentably deficient in polish and elegance, not to say grammatical accuracy, as greatly to prejudice their value and usefulness.

A Digest of the Laws and Regulations of the Wesleyan Methodist, &c. by S. Warren, LL.D. 12mo. pp. 323. (London, Stephens.) — At a period when so much of political import depends upon the feelings and acts of the various sects into which religion is divided amongst us, it is extremely desirable to have expositions like the present, which conveys all the information the public could desire respecting the numerous and powerful body of Wesleyan Methodists.

Theological Library, Vol. II. *Life of Bishop Jewel*, by C. W. Le Bas, M.A. &c. pp. 345. (London, Rivingtons.) — We have here an excellent life of the eminent divine whose learning shone so conspicuously during the early days of the Reformation. It is an interesting work and extremely well written; the portrait of Jewel, prefixed, is of a fine character and strikingly indicative of the man—with more of gentleness and piety than of energy and force.

Sonnets, Meditative and Devotional, by T. Albin, author of "The Year." pp. 158. (London, Simpkin and Marshall.) — One hundred and forty-two sonnets display the author's good feeling and poetic talent. The cultivation of these is its own great reward; and fortunately for such writers it is so, as we fear there is little to hope now-*o*-days of public encouragement for such productions.

Sacred Classics, XVI. (London, Hatchard and Son.) — A selection of sermons on the resurrection, from our most eminent divines, and forming a very fit volume for the period of Easter.

Sir W. Temple's Excursions, &c. 2 vols. — As it is not our intention to enter into the antiquarian portions of these volumes—and we have, in one way or other, exhibited their geographical and miscellaneous merits—we now simply refer to them as a close to our notice, and to repeat that they contain much curious and interesting matter.

Essay on Musical Intervals, Harmonies, &c. by W. S. Woollhouse. pp. 84. (London, Souter.) — A very learned essay upon the most philosophical principles involved in music and the theory of sound. To professors of that pleasing science, we should think it most acceptable.

Compendium of the Literary History of Italy; from the time of Count F. V. Borbone, 12mo. pp. 215. (Edinburgh, T. Clarke; London, Bailliere; Dublin, Milliken; Oxford, Talboys; Cambridge, Deighton, and Newby.) — A nice book of hints and reminiscences, and comprehending within a narrow compass a great deal of the interesting matter which the elaborate work of Tiraboschi so ably explores. The notices of the Roman authors from the earliest antiquity to the fall of the empire in the West are replete with intelligence; and it is delightful to find the literature of so many centuries so conjoined with historical events as to render this little volume equally interesting to the classical and general reader.

A Treatise on the Eyes, &c. by J. H. Curtis, Esq. Octavo. pp. 242. (London, Longman and Co.) — Our eyes have been sore taxed with books on the eyes; but, as this is a second edition, we may spare them for once by referring to our opinion No. I. when we said that Mr. Curtis deserved public thanks for his labours on this interesting subject. The newest feature is a description of the latter's wire-gauze spectacles, on the merits of which, holding up them as preservatives in shine and dust, we can announce, like the Speaker of the House of Commons (Manners or Abercrombie), against the Nose—"the Eyes have it!"

Facts, Laws, and Phenomena of Natural Philosophy, &c. by Professor Quetelet, Translated and Illustrated by

* Connected with diseases of the eye, we ought to notice a very able exposition of "the practice in the Liverpool Ophthalmic Infirmary for the year 1833, by the surgeon, Hugh Neill, Esq." (8vo. pp. 55. London, Longman and Co.; Liverpool, Grapell.) It is an intelligent practical treatise and clinical report on diseases of the eye.—Ed. L. G.

Notes, by R. Wallace, A.M. 12mo. pp. 360. (Glasgow, Sinclair; London, Simpkin and Marshall.) — As an elementary summary of general physics, this volume is rich in valuable instruction, though in form somewhat dry. A careful perusal of and reference to it will make a very respectable young philosopher in a very short period.

ARTS AND SCIENCES. LINNEAN SOCIETY.

MR. LAMBERT in the chair.—Read a monograph of the *Eriogonea*, a tribe of the order *Polygonace*, by Mr. Bentham. The genus *Eriogonum*, when established by Michaux, consisted of but a single species; Mr. Bentham in the present paper enumerates twenty-four species, with the addition of two new genera, namely *Mucronea* and *Chorizanthe*, distinguished by their single-flowered involucrum; the former comprising one species, and the latter eleven. With respect to the geographical distribution of this group of plants, the species are wholly American; and with the exception of *Chorizanthe*, which also occurs in Chili, they are confined to the northern portion of that continent.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE Earl of Derby in the chair.—Twenty-five fellows were elected. Visitors to the gardens and museum in March, 5714. Balance in favour of the Society carried to April 1, 12491. 2s. 11d. With the view of securing the pheasants and other gallinaceous birds from disturbance during the breeding season and, at the same time, of avoiding the expenditure which would have been required for a distinct place for them, during those few months when it is especially desirable that they should remain unmolested, the western portion of the garden has been isolated by a line of wire fence, which will be removed at the earliest possible period. The details of the arrangements made for acquiring a suitable building for a museum will be communicated at the next meeting. At the request of several members, Dr. Marshall Hall has expressed his willingness to deliver a course of lectures to the Society on some interesting points of animal physiology, to commence on the first Wednesday in May. The third part of the Society's Transactions was placed on the table.—Notes on the natural history and habits of the *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*. Within the last two or three years we have occasionally laid before the readers of the *Literary Gazette* all the particulars of this remarkable creature (partaking of the characteristics of quadruped and bird), which the exertions of the traveller and the researches of science had brought to light. These notices, however, were necessarily meagre; we therefore have great pleasure in communicating the following. Mr. G. Bennett, the author of the paper, made the inquiries in the colony of New South Wales, and in the interior of New Holland, at the end of 1832 and commencement of 1833. From one of the burrows inhabited by these creatures* a living female was taken and placed in a cask, with grass, mud, water, &c.; and in this situation it soon became tranquil, and apparently reconciled to its confinement. Hoping that he had now obtained the means, should his captive prove to have been impregnated, of determining the character of the excluded product, Mr. Bennett set out on his return for Sydney, on the 13th of October, carrying the living *ornithorhynchus* with him in a small box covered with battens, between which only very narrow intervals were left. The next morning, tying a long cord to its leg, he

* We have already described their external appearance.

roused it, and placed it on the bank of the river, in order to indulge it with a bathe; and a similar indulgence was granted to it on the second day of its journey. On these occasions it soon found its way into the water, and travelled up the stream, apparently delighting in those places which abounded most in aquatic weeds. When diving in deep and clear water its motions were distinctly seen: it sank speedily to the bottom, swam there for a short distance, and then rose again to the surface. It appeared, however, to prefer keeping close to the bank, occasionally thrusting its beak into the mud, from whence it evidently procured food; as, on raising the head, after withdrawing the beak, the mandibles were seen in lateral motion, as is usual when the animal masticates. The motions of the mandibles were similar to those of a duck under the same circumstances. After feeding, it would lie some time on the grassy bank, and at others partly in and partly out of the water, combing and cleaning its coat with the claws of the hind feet. This process continued for some time, and greatly improved its sleek and glossy appearance. After its second excursion it was replaced in the box, which was not opened again until the following morning, when it was found to have made its escape. In the examination of another burrow, Mr. Bennett found three young *ornithorhynchus*, which appeared to have, not long previously, been brought forth: they were thinly covered with hair, and measured in length about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. No fragments of shells were observable in the burrow, nor any thing that could lead to the supposition of the young having been excluded while yet in the egg. Mr. Bennett then describes their habits in captivity, having succeeded in capturing an old female and three young ones. The old one was in a ragged and wretched condition; little milk could be pressed from her abdominal glands, as might have been expected in the parent of such well-grown young ones. The young were allowed to run about the room; but the old one was so restless, and damaged the walls of the room so much by her attempts at burrowing, that it was found necessary to confine her to the box. During the day she would remain quiet, huddled up with her young ones; but at night she became very restless, and eager to escape. The little ones were frolicsome as puppies and, apparently, as fond of play; and many of their actions were not a little ludicrous. During the day they seemed to prefer a dark corner for repose, and generally resorted to the spot, to which they had been accustomed, although they would change it on a sudden, apparently from mere caprice. They did not appear to like deep, but enjoyed exceedingly a bathe in shallow water, with a turf of grass placed in one corner of the pan; they seldom remained longer than ten or fifteen minutes in the water at one time. Though apparently nocturnal or, at least, preferring the cool and dusky evening to the glare and heat of noon, their movements in this respect were so irregular, as to furnish no grounds for a definite conclusion. They slept much; and it frequently happened that one slept while the other was running about, and this occurred at almost all periods of the day. They climbed with great readiness to the summit of a book-case, and thus, by means of their strong cutaneous muscles, and of their claws, mounting with much expedition to the top. Their food consisted of bread soaked in water, chopped egg, and meat minced very small, and they did not seem to prefer milk to water. One of the young ones died on the 29th of January

1833, and the other on the 2d of February, having been kept alive in captivity for nearly five weeks. The old one died before.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

MR. BAILY in the chair.—Several Fellows were elected; others proposed. The following communications among others were read:—Catalogue of 76 stars, by Mr. Snow. This catalogue is an experiment towards determining how nearly the results of a small transit may be brought to accord with those of larger observatories. The instruments employed were a 20-inch transit, on a cast-iron stand and a brick-work pier, and a sidereal chronometer beating half-seconds. When seven wires were not used (which was generally the case) those employed were reduced individually to the mean of the seven by a subsidiary table obtained from 10 transits of *Polaris*, and 20 of *Ursae Minoris*. Mr. Snow enters into the detail of his method of observing, and the results are as follow. Of the 76 stars, 67 are in the Greenwich catalogue of 1112 stars, of which 5 absolutely agree with the Greenwich observations; 41 differ by less than $0^{\circ} 1$, 17, by more than $0^{\circ} 1$, and less than $0^{\circ} 2$, and 4 by more than $0^{\circ} 2$; the greatest difference being $0^{\circ} 26$. The *plus* and *minus* errors are equally divided; the sum of 31 of the first being $2^{\circ} 95$, and 31 of the second $3^{\circ} 03$; giving, when signs of errors are taken into account, $0^{\circ} 0012$ as the mean difference of the two catalogues.—Observations of a comet in 1833, and of another in 1834, made at Paramatta by Mr. Dunlop, with remarks by Mr. Henderson in a letter to Sir Thomas Brisbane. The comet of 1833 was very small, and was observed from Sept. 30 to Oct. 16. That of 1834 was observed from March 21 to April 14. On the latter, Mr. Dunlop remarks (March 21), that it resembled a small bright nebula about $1\frac{1}{2}$ diameter, with a very faint stream of light proceeding from the head, *at intervals*, exceedingly rare, and of a very pale bluish colour, remarkably different from that of the head. The first was observed with a parallel wire, and the second with a ring micrometer. The places of the comets are given, but they are too numerous to be here inserted.

LITERARY AND LEARNED. UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, April 2d.—The following degrees were conferred:—
Bachelor in Civil Law.—N. H. Macdonald, Fellow of All Souls' College.
Masters of Arts.—Rev. I. Cooke, St. Edmund Hall; J. Anstice, late Student of Christ Church.
Bachelors of Arts.—R. Burgas, New Inn Hall, Grand Compounder; G. Whitmore, Christ Church.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

SIR B. BRODIE in the chair.—The reading of the Rev. J. Farquharson's paper on the formation of ice at the bottom of rivers and running streams was concluded. The author in this curious paper, states that the phenomenon is quite common in our climate; he quotes the opinions of M. Arago—with which he does not agree,—Mr. Easedale—appropriately pronounced *Ice-date* by the secretary,—Mr. Knight, the celebrated botanist, and several other writers on the same subject; he attributes it to the radiation of heat from the bottom of the river or stream. He made a number of experiments in the Don, and another river, a tributary of the Don, in the beginning of January this year, from which it appeared that the ice at the bottom, or, as it is called, *ground grue*, does not resemble the glass-like plates, formed on the surface, but is a

cavernous mass of varied size adhering together, rudely symmetrical, like the head of a cauliflower, of a shining and silvery whiteness. By the accumulation of such masses, streams are often raised above their usual level, much to the surprise of those persons who are not acquainted with the cause: horses, it appears, are aware of the presence of this ice; for where it is found, they refuse to ford accustomed rivers, finding it to yield under their feet. The author most commonly found this ice when the sky was clear, a circumstance altogether at variance with the result of Arago's inquiries, who states that he never met with it, except in cloudy weather. Mr. Easedale attributes its appearance to hoar-frost falling to the bottom, like a precipitate; as he says, however, that it is frequently present during the continuance of windy weather, the author also contends this opinion. Experiments were carried on by him during the first three or four days of last January; the thermometer, on these occasions, stood at 47, 23, and lastly, at 19, Fhr., on the different days; he found the bottoms of the rapids in the Don covered with the ice on each day. The author then, by analogy, argues that the phenomenon is neither more nor less than the same process observed on land, produced by the cooling of the earth's surface, in consequence of the radiation of heat, modifications of which take place on many trees by the effect of shade. A number of gentlemen were introduced, and took their seats for the first time as Fellows.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

LAST Saturday, at the general meeting, Sir A. Johnston, V. P. in the chair.—Several presents of books were laid on the table; one, a valuable Dutch History, presented by T. T. Rennel, Esq. of Enfield, comprising an account of the Dutch settlements in India. Mr. Court, Gen. Allard, and the Chevalier General Ventura, were elected corresponding members, in token, as the right hon. chairman took occasion to observe, of the society's appreciation of the generous and disinterested assistance they had rendered to *Lieut. Burnes* and to *M. Jacquemont*, while the latter were residing at the court of Runjit Singh.* Other members were admitted. The paper read was a continuation of Capt. Low's MSS. It referred principally to the situation of the Burmese provinces of Martaban and Teneserin; and to the resources and political relations of the Burmans. The latter are a martial people, because it has been the policy of their rulers to make them so; but they have no innate bravery. On the contrary, Burmese soldiers are so well inclined to run away in time of battle, that their officers, having no other alternative, chop off the heads *instanteum* of all they catch in the rear, as an example of what those in front may expect if they turn back. Thus the severity of their discipline supplies the place of real courage. Their mode of fighting in stockade is both offensive and defensive, and one which they employ with much effect; it may be considered as a *chef d'œuvre* of Burmese ingenuity and perseverance. In the late war the British could only carry them by trenching and mining. In cases of necessity, the Burmese soldiers burrow in the earth, like rabbits. On a few of these occasions, some of their "invulnerables," who had been incited to the display, made their appearance

* The liberal principle on which these elections were made is truly gratifying. Such enlightened attentions, on the part of learned societies, to deserving individuals, cannot fail to have the best effect in widening the sphere of literary influence, and in encouraging meritorious conduct.

in front of the enemy's station, calling out, "O white men, where are the Burmese now?" The English soldiers so much admired the daring boldness of these men, and were so much amused by their grotesque appearance, that they never visited their temerity by firing on them, unless they became particularly troublesome. These, however, were merely individual displays of bravery. The Burmans are well supplied with ammunition; but have no great command of the fire-lock. They also use long spears, and short swords. The despotic nature of the government enables it to avail itself of the whole serviceable male population, who are carefully registered, and compelled to serve in the army without fee or reward. It is customary to levy one man for every third house. Capt. Low rates the military force of the Burmese at 70,000 fighting men; and the whole population of the empire at about a million. The chairman announced, that the next meeting of the society would be on the 9th of May next; and would constitute its twelfth anniversary.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

MR. HAMILTON in the chair.—Mr. Crecy exhibited an impression of an ancient seal of the mayoralty of London, and Mr. Doubleday exhibited another, and very similar one, of the same office. Mr. Newman exhibited an exceedingly fine head in bronze, considerably larger than the natural size. This splendid relic of Roman art was found in the bed of the Thames, opposite to Fresh Wharf. It cannot be ascertained whether it was part of a bust or a whole-length statue, as the lower part was broken off close round the bottom of the neck. Mr. Crecy communicated an architectural description of Eynesford Castle, Kent, the property of Sir P. H. Dyke, Bart., illustrated by drawings and two small models.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MONDAY.....	Geographical, 9 P.M.
	Medical, 8 P.M.
	Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution. Dr. Lardner on the Objects, Advantages, and Pleasures of Science.
	Zoological, 8½ P.M. Scientific Business.
TUESDAY.....	Society of Arts, 8 P.M. Evening Illustrations. On Bridge Building and the Principles of Arches, by J. Savage.
	Med. and Chirurgical, 8½ P.M. Medico-Botanical, 8 P.M.
	Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	Society of Arts. Annual Election of Officers, &c. from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.
THURSDAY...	London Artists' and Amateurs' Conversazione.

FINE ARTS.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS:
SUFFOLK STREET.

(Fifth notice.)

THERE is much attractive portraiture in this Exhibition. Every body knows, either from experience or from observation, how hard it is to manage a large family in real life; the difficulty is equally great on canvass. Mr. J. P. Davis has, however, met it very successfully in No. 77, *Portraits of the Family of John Pearce, Esq.*; none of which seem to have been ill placed, or neglected in their respective situations: the colouring also is harmonious and pleasing. No. 54, *Miss Taylor*

as Beatrice, is a very clever portrait by the same artist:

"If to its share some faults in art may fall,
Look at the face, and you'll forget them all."

No. 175, *Portrait of a Lady*, and No. 213, *Portrait of Mrs. Harding*, by Mrs. W. Carpenter, exhibit the good taste, fine eye for colour, and fluent execution, which invariably distinguish that lady's productions. Mr. Lonsdale's portraits, always remarkable for their simplicity and fidelity, appear to greater advantage than on any former occasion. We would point out No. 67, *William Birch, Esq.*; No. 178, *J. B. Heath, Esq.*; and No. 228, *James Aspinall, Esq.* (by-the-by not very unlike the artist himself,) as peculiarly excellent. No. 21 and No. 205, *Portraits of Ladies*, by Mr. B. R. Faulkner, are also, in our opinion, an advance in the practice of this able and rising artist: the breadth of style in the first reminds us strongly of the early pictures of Sir Joshua. No. 210, *Miss Gronow*, and 145, *Children by J. J. Buxton*, both by Mr. F. Y. Hurlstone, are very charming compositions, as well as very pleasing portraits. Of the first especially, it is no small praise to say, that, although the donkey is admirably painted, it is still kept in proper subordination to its rider.

We will briefly revert to some of the miscellaneous subjects.

No. 319, *Wickliffe and the Friars*. S. J. E. Jones.—In its class one of the best pictures in the gallery. The insolent bearing of the Friars, and the honest indignation of the great reformer, are very finely represented.

No. 258, *Judith attire*. J. Martin.—It is impossible to look at this remarkable performance without feeling that it possesses some qualities of execution, which none but the most masterly hand could have communicated to it. The tone of the head of Judith's attendant is also very fine. More, truth will not permit us to say.

No. 352, *Desolation*. A. J. Woollmer.—The dead knight, the despairing female, the smouldering fires, and the mutilated battlements of the castle, are brought together with a skill and an effect which rivet the attention, although the heart sickens at the catastrophe.

No. 420, *Scene from "The Wreck Ashore."* R. W. Bass.—Executed in a style not inferior to that of Zoffany, celebrated as he was for his dramatic paintings. The irresistibly humorous, although intensely vulgar, expression in the countenance of Reeve is excellent. Nor is the resemblance of Buckstone less happy.—We are not quite so much pleased with No. 354, *Independent of a Vote*, by the same artist. Really Mr. Bass must have searched both highways and byways for the ruffianism which he has here concentrated. The best feature in the performance is the jolly coachman, who is laughing at the voluntary degradation of his own species, who are taking upon themselves the duty of his horses.

No. 431, *A Country Revel*. P. F. Poole.—Hung far too high for inspection. As a composition, it wants compactness; but it seems to be full of character.

No. 375, *The Wounded Fallow-deer hunted down*. C. Hancock.—In his pictorial pursuits Mr. Hancock is a successful sportsman. He has here run down his game in a style that ranks him with the best of his contemporaries.

No. 322, *Bhagwan Hindoo attendant upon Samuddas Dassye*. C. Landseer.—Every way interesting—in its character, in its costume, and in its accessories.

Mr. H. Wyatt has several of his pretty and characteristic female subjects; among which

No. 386, *The Ornithologist*, and No. 387, *The Vigil*, are conspicuous. But why does a man of his powers satisfy himself with such comparative trifles?

(To be concluded in our next.)

DOMINVS MICHI ADIVTOR. No. I. *The Last Supper*. By Carucci (called "Pontormo"); etched by P. W. Tompkins. Hatchard and Son.

In the upper part of a small room at Hampton Court Palace, which has long been used as a pantry, but of which an oral tradition exists that it was once Cardinal Wolsey's private chapel, are four Italian paintings on board, of the early part of the sixteenth century, representing "The Last Supper," "The Scourging of Christ," "Christ bearing his Cross," and "The Resurrection." Over the first three pictures in the device, in very old Latin, several times repeated, DOMINVS MICHI ADIVTOR. These pictures were little noticed until the summer of 1830, when Miss Harriet Whitshed, one of the young ladies of a family by whom the suite of apartments to which this room belonged was occupied, was so struck with the beauty of the head of Christ, in the third picture above mentioned (on which a gleam of sunshine happened at the moment to fall), that she was induced to copy that and another head; and to make sketches of the entire pictures of "The Last Supper," and "The Bearing of the Cross." Encouraged by the commendations of the late Mr. Northcote, to whom she shewed her performances, Miss Whitshed, having obtained his Majesty's permission, made copies of all the four pictures; and from one of those copies the print under our notice has been etched.

It is only a supposition, although a probable one, that the original is actually by Carucci, who was called Pontormo from the place of his birth. The principal ground on which the supposition rests is, that the composition, although in some respects altered and improved, is principally taken from Albert Durer, whose works Lanzi tells us Pontormo frequently copied. As a whole, the composition is fine and striking; and there are also parts of it, such as, for instance, as the action of the conscience-stricken and alarmed Judas, and the appearance of earnest conversation in some of the other apostles,—which are admirable. But, unfortunately, the most important portion of the group is very offensive. The painter, of course, intended to convey the idea of extreme affection and sensibility. Nothing, however, can in our opinion be more absurd and disagreeable than the position of St. John; on whom the Saviour really seems to be about to inflict a smart slap on the face. By-the-by, this is Albert Durer's doing. We have no doubt that the original has been most faithfully imitated by Miss Whitshed; on whose talents and industry the undertaking reflects great credit.

LORD CHARLES TOWNSHEND'S PICTURES. On Tuesday last we had the pleasure of being present at the private view of Lord Charles Townshend's Pictures, which are to be sold this day by Messrs. Christie and Manson. The collection is small, but very select. All the pictures are fine; some of them superlative. Among the old masters, we were most struck with "A Spanish Youth drinking," by Murillo; "An Old Lady of Quality," by Rembrandt; "The Village Fête," by Teniers; "Le Père Avenge," by Grawe; "Dutch Fishing Boats," by Van der Capella; a small "Holy Family," by Guido; "Ancient Ruins

near Rome," by Berghem; and "a Mountainous Landscape," by Ruydsael. But we were proud and delighted to see living British artists maintaining their place with the best of them. Wilkie's "Duncan Gray;" Callicott's "View on the Meuse;" Hilton's "Wood-Nymph;" Allan's "Turk and Tartar;" Webster's "Il Penseroso;" O'Connor's "Romantic View in Wales;" Piddington's "Sambo;" Tennant's "Fishing Boys;" and P. Williams's "Italian Girls," will prove the truth of this assertion. There are also two elegant, though unfinished, groups of children, by the lamented Lawrence; and ten exquisite studies and pictures, by the no less lamented Bonington.

LEYLAND'S KILMENY.

WE have had much pleasure in inspecting a beautiful female figure, modelled of the size of life, by a young sculptor from Halifax, of the name of Leyland, now resident in Seymour Place North, Euston Square. It represents the fair and pure subject of Hogg's interesting poem of Kilmenny, at the moment of her awaking, after having been transported to Fairy Land. Mr. Leyland has hitherto enjoyed few opportunities of study, except those which nature has afforded him; but he has well known how to avail himself of the charms of that great mistress; and there are a fleshiness and a flexibility in this figure of his, which strongly remind us of the impression which the first sight of the Elgin marbles made upon us, as contrasted with the more rigid and unbending forms of other works from the ancient chisel. We do not mean to say that Mr. Leyland has nothing to learn in his art; but we can justly declare that his Kilmenny exhibits a taste and a feeling, which, if cherished and encouraged as they ought to be, must eventually raise him to eminence.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Views of the Principal Seats, and Marine, and Landscape Scenery, in the neighbourhood of Lymington. From original pictures by J. M. Gilbert; drawn on stone by L. H. Haghe. Part V. Ackermann.

THE delay in the publication of this number has been owing to the indisposition of Mr. Haghe. We are glad to observe that it has not impaired his powers. The views are executed in a style at least equal to that of former portions of the work. "The proposed Suspension Bridge across the Lymington River," and "Norton Lodge, Isle of Wight," are especially beautiful.

Studies from Nature. By J. Inskip; engraved by E. Wagstaff. Plate VII. Tilt.

LIKE the rest of the series, illustrative of the beautiful and the expressive. The dark dress and veil are judiciously and tastefully arranged, so as to add greatly to the effect; and set off the placid and interesting countenance. The execution of the engraving is as clear and brilliant as heretofore.

BIOGRAPHY.

RICHARD SHARP, ESQ.

"CONVERSATIONAL SHARP," as he was called, died last week (30th March) at Dorchester, at the age of 74 or 76. We recently reviewed a small but clever volume of his writings; in which acuteness of observation, right feeling, strong sense, and a just perception of the beautiful were displayed. He was a man of originally sound mind, and he had cultivated it much by reading and intercourse with society of a highly intellectual order. As a member

of parliament he disappointed the expectations which had been formed of him from his various endowments in other respects. His taste in the fine arts was superior to most, and his *belles-lettres* literature was extensive. Unlike 99,999 of his literary contemporaries, he enjoyed and has left a large fortune; but authorship was his amusement, not his staff. He was on intimate terms with Canning and Macintosh; and the former told the writer of this brief note, that the votes of these two against him on the question of his mission to Lisbon, gave him, Mr. Canning, more pain than if there had been a majority in the House of Commons. His feelings were deeply hurt by it: we know not the personal reasons.

MUSIC.

CONCERTS OF ANCIENT MUSIC.

THE selection for the third concert was good in every way, and did infinite credit to the taste and judgment of Earl Howe, the director for the night. The noble string of choruses from *Israel in Egypt*, "He spoke the word," "He gave them hallowstones," "He sent a thick darkness," "He smote all the first-born," and "But as for his people,"—these alone would have offered sufficient attraction to the tasteful auditor, had there been nothing else worth listening to. But the bill of fare consisted almost entirely of compositions of first-rate excellence, among which were Croft's fine anthem, "Sing unto God," with its majestic chorus, "Cry aloud, and shout;" Handel's delightful trio and chorus, "Disdainful of danger;" the *Sanctus, Hosanna, and Agnus Dei* of Jommelli's mass in D; Webbe's masterpiece of glee-writing, "When winds breathe soft;" and Ford's touching little glee, "Since first I saw your face," most charmingly sung by Mrs. Knyvett, and Messrs. Hawkins, Vaughan, and Parry, jun.

Will it be believed that most of these admirable compositions were received with dead silence? Those animated tokens of approbation which are wont to follow whatever is excellent in matter or manner at other concerts, are very seldom to be heard here.

Madame Stockhausen, however, extorted some applause even from this fashionably cold audience: first, in "Gratias agimus," in which she was, of course, accompanied by Willman, and afterwards in "Dove sono," which she sang with exquisite taste. The recitative to this song was very judiciously curtailed. Mr. Machin, of whom we have formerly had occasion to speak in terms of praise, gave further evidence of the excellent school in which his taste has been formed, in a most delightful song from Handel's *Belshazzar*, "O! God of truth." If, to his fine voice and pure style Mr. Machin could add a little more energy, he would speedily rank as one of our first bass singers. Mr. Parry, jun. evinced excellent taste in singing "Il pensier," from Haydn's *Orfeo*. The same may be said of Mrs. Knyvett and Miss Postans, in Kent's well-known anthem, "Hear my prayer." "Return, O God of Hosts!" is well suited to display the rich voice of Miss Postans; though a stricter attention to the fine opportunities afforded by this charming song, of swelling out the long notes, would have much heightened the effect. We would advise this young lady also, in her future performances of it, to abstain from one or two slight alterations of the text, which will never win for her the applause of that judicious few, who are constantly exercising a quiet, yet an eventually certain influence over all matters of musical taste. Mrs. Knyvett, in the recita-

tive and song, "Ye sacred priests," did not, on the whole, evince that fine taste which usually distinguishes her performance. Part of the recitative seemed to drag; we imagine that the sentence, "Why are ye thus afraid," &c. should be uttered rather more rapidly; and in the minor movement of the song, the sentiment requires that the voice should be subdued nearly throughout. Mrs. Knyvett's general performance and demeanour convey the impression of her possessing that good sense and gentleness which will enable her to receive these hints in the same friendly spirit which prompts the offering them. We must add, in justice to Mrs. Knyvett and to our own often-expressed admiration of her, that the concluding cadences to both movements of her song were most beautifully appropriate and expressive. We ought to mention a very pleasing madrigal by Weelkes, dated 1600, "When Thoralis delights to walk," in which the parts imitate and are interwoven with one another very ingeniously.* The two instrumental pieces were the overture to *Iphigenia* by Gluck, and that to *Prometheus*, by Beethoven; both equally delightful in their way, and admirably placed, the older one at the commencement of the first act, and the more modern one at the beginning of the second. The concert concluded with a good trio and chorus from one of Haydn's masses, adapted to English words. Her majesty, who, with a numerous suite, was present, ordered Haydn's hymn, with the English words, "Lord of heaven, &c." instead of our old friend, "God save the king," which has certainly been worn threadbare of late: and yet, in spite of that circumstance, we continue to think it infinitely preferable to its more modern substitute of Wednesday night.

Q.

MESSRS. HAYDON AND RUSSELL'S CONCERT.

ON Tuesday, at the Music Hall in Store Street, this concert came off as triumphantly for Mr. Russell and his associated musicians, as the discord in another place, on the same evening, ended triumphantly for another Russell, the leader of the band—of the Opposition. And we feel peculiar pleasure in this, having, from his *debut*, anticipated but one result from Mr. Russell's talents, not only as a singer, but as an accomplished musician; and, as it appears on this occasion, an able composer and very successful teacher. His pupil, Miss Steele, sang charmingly with him the duet "Bella Imago;" and also a song, "I love to dwell," composed for her by Mr. Russell, and encored by the audience. Of the performances we may chiefly notice the overtures *Der Freyschutz* and *Fidelio*, well executed by a full band of some forty or fifty instruments; a song of his own composition, "Some love to roam," by Mr. Russell; air, "Le Chevrier de la Montagne," by Miss C. Novello; a concerto on the grand piano, by Haydon; a solo by Blagrove, on the violin; a song, by Mr. Handel Gear; and a duet, by the same and Mr. Russell, "All ideas," Rossini. A song, called "A Health to the Queen," of which the music and poetry were equally bad, occasioned some disapprobation: it was not of a proper character for a concert, and Mr. Horncastle's long cadenza on the word "God" in it, in the worst possible taste. With this slight exception the whole went off with deserved applause; and Mr. Russell proved how well he had deserved the

* This reminds us that in our notice of the second concert, which was penned in haste, we omitted to give honour due to a very excellent madrigal by Luca Marenzio, "Strider facena," in which there is more melody than is always to be met with in this class of compositions.

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METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1835.

	March.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday	26	From 25 to 47	30-30
Friday	27	27 .. 44	30-24
Saturday	28	31 .. 49	30-18 .. 30-19
Sunday	29	30 .. 46	29-99 .. 29-99
Monday	30	28 .. 50	29-06 .. 29-79
Tuesday	31	31 .. 55	29-78 .. 29-74
Wednesday	1	36 .. 62	29-70 .. 29-79
		Wind variable, S.W. prevailing.	
		Altitude nearly clear and cloudy, rain at times on the morning of the 1st instant.	
		Rain fallen, .075 of an inch.	
		April.	
		Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday	2	From 41 to 66	29-89 .. 29-91
Friday	3	47 .. 62	29-91 .. 29-89
Saturday	4	40 .. 51	29-95 .. 29-94
Sunday	5	41 .. 54	30-16 .. 30-17
Monday	6	35 .. 59	30-24 .. 30-29
Tuesday	7	40 .. 63	30-34 .. 30-35
Wednesday	8	45 .. 64	30-30 .. 30-23
		Wind variable, E. and S.E. prevailing.	
		Except the 3d and two following days, generally clear; rain falling on the 3d and 5th.	
		A heavy thunder storm in the afternoon of the 3d, accompanied at times by hail; the thunder rather louder, and the lightning more vivid than usual.	
		Rain fallen, .75 of an inch.	
		Edmonton.	
		CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.	
		Latitude .. 51° 37' 32" N.	
		Longitude .. 3° 51' W. of Greenwich.	

The rain fallen at Highgate during the month of March is 2-365 of an inch.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Having this week to introduce another historical work of great interest (see our first review), we postpone the notice of Raumer, that we may not have too much of one kind.

To our "Constant Reader," on the subject of Mr. Bernhard's Heating Apparatus, we beg to say that our rule is never to report upon any thing susceptible of actual examination, without having satisfied ourselves of the accuracy of that which stands to the public.

The observations of another "Constant Reader" may be better timed hereafter, should the continuation of the work to which he alludes appear, and merit the severe censures he bestows upon it.

L. L. R. will find a letter at our office.

Magnifico seems to have lengthened his sobriquet unnecessarily beyond the first syllable.

O. D. will not do.

Mr. Jeeves' notice is an advertisement.

R. H. is very facetious, but mistaken.

Our reporter was at the Adelphi on Thursday week, and understood that the performances were for Mrs. Yates' benefit; no very extraordinary blunder.

ERATUM.—The bumper last Thursday week at the Adelphi, was not, as we supposed, for Mrs. Yates' benefit, but one of the usual and ordinary overflows.

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R. HILLS, Secretary.

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April 1835.
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